

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 9 are amended. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found in the specification, for example, in original claim 7. Support for the amendments to claim 2 can be found in original claim 2. Claims 5, 7 and 9 are amended for form. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0114001 A1 to Oyanagi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,654,895 to Henkhaus et al. (hereinafter "Henkhaus"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,602,975 to Kataoka et al. (hereinafter "Kataoka").¹ The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Oyanagi, Henkhaus and Kataoka, even in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious an auto-select mode setting unit setting a reset process control unit into either one of a reset signal valid mode and a reset signal invalid mode automatically dependent upon an operation state of an image forming unit, as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action alleges that the printer 10 of Oyanagi corresponds to the claimed image forming device. The Office Action, in rejecting claim 7 appears to acknowledge that Oyanagi fails to disclose an auto-select mode setting unit setting a reset process control unit into either one of a reset signal valid mode and a reset signal invalid mode automatically dependent upon an operation state of an image forming unit. However, the Office Action alleges that Henkhaus remedies the above deficiencies of Oyanagi. In particular, the Office

¹ Applicant notes that 1) the Office Action, on page 3, lines 9-11 indicates that only claims 1 and 2 are rejected, and 2) the Office Action Summary indicates that only claims 1-11 are pending and rejected. However, the Office Action also substantively rejects claims 3-13 on pages 5-11. Accordingly, Applicant interprets the Office Action as rejecting pending claims 1-13.

Action, citing col. 5, lines 15-26 of Henkhaus, alleges that "depending on how the user uses the system, it may or may not be automatically turned on." Applicant respectfully disagrees with these assertions.

Henkhaus only discloses that the software application operating on the computing system 100 of Henkhaus monitors a user's behavior and adapts the power management policies of the computing system 100 to the user's perceived preferences. See col. 2, lines 20-24. That is, Henkhaus fails to disclose any element that sets a reset process control unit into either one of a reset signal valid mode and a reset signal invalid mode automatically dependent upon an operation state of an image forming unit. Further, Kataoka does not remedy the above deficiencies of Oyanagi and Henkhaus. Therefore, independent claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Oyanagi, Henkhaus and Kataoka.

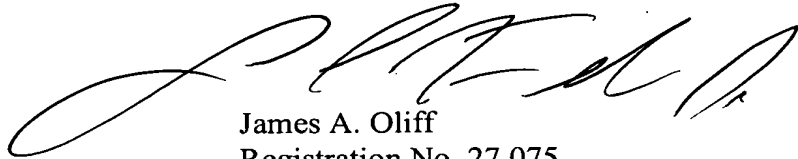
In addition, claims 2-13, which depend from independent claim 1, also are patentable over the combination of Oyanagi, Henkhaus and Kataoka, for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features these claims recite. For example, with respect to claim 6, the Office Action, citing col. 4, lines 22-37 of Henkhaus, alleges that Henkhaus discloses an auto-select mode setting unit that sets the reset process control unit into the reset signal valid mode when the sleep-mode judging unit determines that the image forming unit is not in the sleep mode, the auto-select mode setting unit setting the reset process control unit into the reset signal invalid mode when the sleep-mode judging unit determines that the image forming unit is in the sleep mode. However, Henkhaus only discloses that a computing system 100 transitions to a higher power state when an invalid mode reset signal has been sent. In addition, with respect to claim 13, the Office Action, citing col. 4, line 64 - col. 5, line 6 of Kataoka, alleges that Kataoka discloses the features of claim 13. However, Kataoka fails to disclose whether or not a parallel interface cable is connected to a parallel interface port, and whether or not a network cable is connected to a network port.

Accordingly, for at least the above discussed reasons, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Lenwood Faulcon, Jr.
Registration No. 61,310

JAO:LXF/mkg

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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